JOE BIDEN • **Published** March 25

Biden in 2005 said nixing the filibuster 'upsets the constitutional design' and would 'eviscerate the Senate'

Biden said Thursday he agreed with Barack Obama that the filibuster was a 'Jim Crow relic'

By **Morgan Phillips | Fox News**

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Sen. Ben Sasse, R-Neb., spent over an hour on the Senate floor Wednesday night reading a 2005 speech from President Biden verbatim where Biden said eliminating the filibuster would "eviscerate the Senate."

Biden, then a Delaware senator, said at the time it was "one of the most important speeches for historical purposes that I will have given in the 32 years since I have been in the Senate."

He said that ending the 60-vote hurdle would turn the Senate "into the House of Representatives."

The Senate at that time was also split 50-50. George W. Bush was in office, meaning a Republican had the tie-breaking vote, Vice President Dick Cheney.

Biden said at the time "the Senate ought not act rashly by changing its rules to satisfy a strong-willed majority acting in the heat of the moment."

The former senator said, "it is my personal belief that the Senate should be more judicious in the use of the filibuster." He added that "it should come as no surprise that in periods where the electorate is split very evenly, as it is now, the filibustering of nominations was used extensively."

BIDEN SAYS FILIBUSTER IS BEING ABUSED, THREATENS TO BACK CHANGES

But ending the filibuster, he said, was a mistake.

"It is not only a bad idea, it upsets the constitutional design and it disservices the country," Biden’s speech said. "No longer would the Senate be that ‘different kind of legislative body’ that the Founders intended. No longer would the Senate be the ‘saucer’ to cool the passions of the immediate majority."

Biden on Thursday said he supported changes to the filibuster but stopped short of supporting calls for its elimination.

He said he would "strongly support" reforming the silent filibuster to a "talking" filibuster where senators who want to block legislation would have to hold the floor by talking endlessly. He cited statistics that there were just 58 motions to break a filibuster from 1917 to 1971, but just last year, there were "five times that many."

SENATE REPUBLICANS PREDICT DEMS WILL USE VOTING BILL TO KILL THE FILIBUSTER

Biden said he agreed with former President Barack Obama's assessment that the filibuster was a "Jim Crow relic."

In 2005, Biden valued the filibuster, lamenting what might happen if it were eliminated: "Senators would start thinking about changing other rules when they became ‘inconvenient.’ Instead of two-thirds of the vote to change a rule, you’d now have precedent that it only takes a bare majority. Altering Senate rules to help in one political fight or another could become standard operating procedure, which, in my view, would be disastrous."

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Democrats of late have taken up a pressure campaign to eliminate the "racist" filibuster, particularly as they work to pass the sweeping elections bill H.R. 1. Moderate Democrat Sens. Joe Manchin, W.Va., and Kyrsten Sinema, Ariz., remain opposed to eliminating the hurdle.

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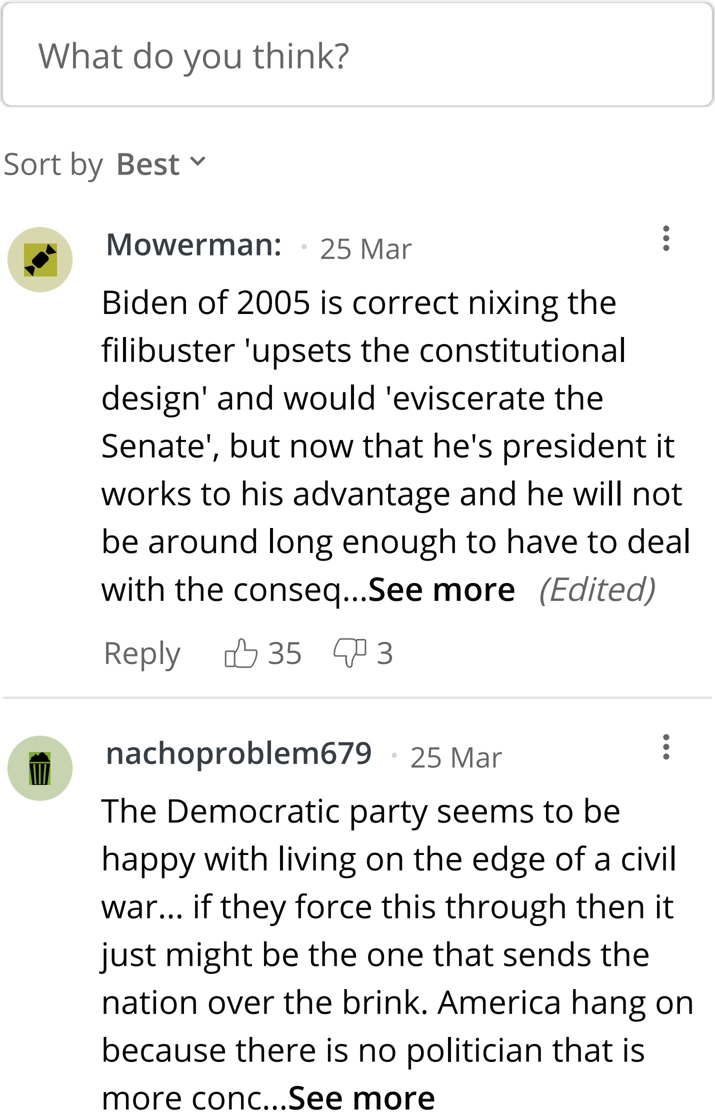

Mowerman: · 25 Mar

Biden of 2005 is correct nixing the filibuster 'upsets the constitutional design' and would 'eviscerate the Senate', but now that he's president it works to his advantage and he will not be around long enough to have to deal with the conseq...**See more** *(Edited)*

nachoproblem679 · 25 Mar

The Democratic party seems to be happy with living on the edge of a civil war... if they force this through then it just might be the one that sends the nation over the brink. America hang on because there is no politician that is more conc...**See more**

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beachfront2021346 • 25 Mar ⋮

Replying to nachoproblem679

These Nazis may just get one. Why do you think they have militarized the capitol? To protect themselves from Forest Gump with rubber horns or an air force vet "armed" with an Amercican flag wrapped around her?

Reply 👍 14 👎 2

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pilgrim1620430 • 25 Mar ⋮

Joe will say whatever is on the teleprompter. At this point in his life he has achieved the ultimate political goal; the Presidency! Who is pulling the strings? Certainly no one who was elected. Joe was the ONLY supposed "centrist" in t...**See more**

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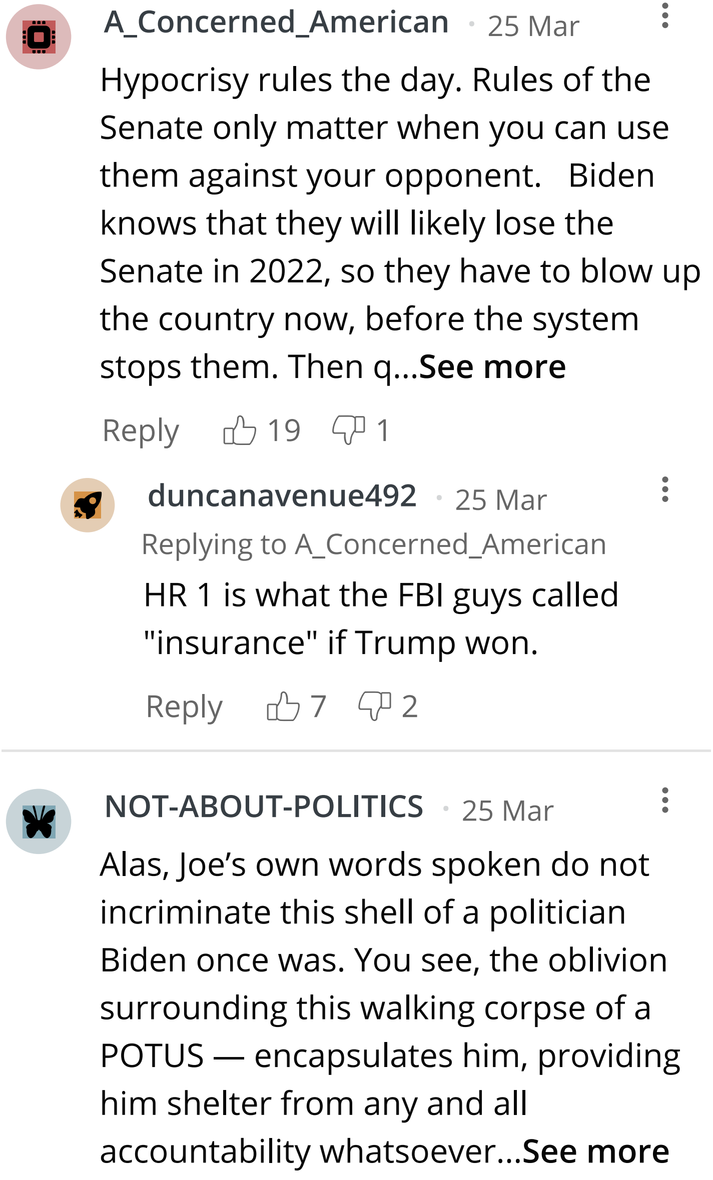

A_Concerned_American • 25 Mar

Hypocrisy rules the day. Rules of the Senate only matter when you can use them against your opponent.   Biden knows that they will likely lose the Senate in 2022, so they have to blow up the country now, before the system stops them. Then q...**See more**

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duncanavenue492 • 25 Mar

Replying to A_Concerned_American

HR 1 is what the FBI guys called "insurance" if Trump won.

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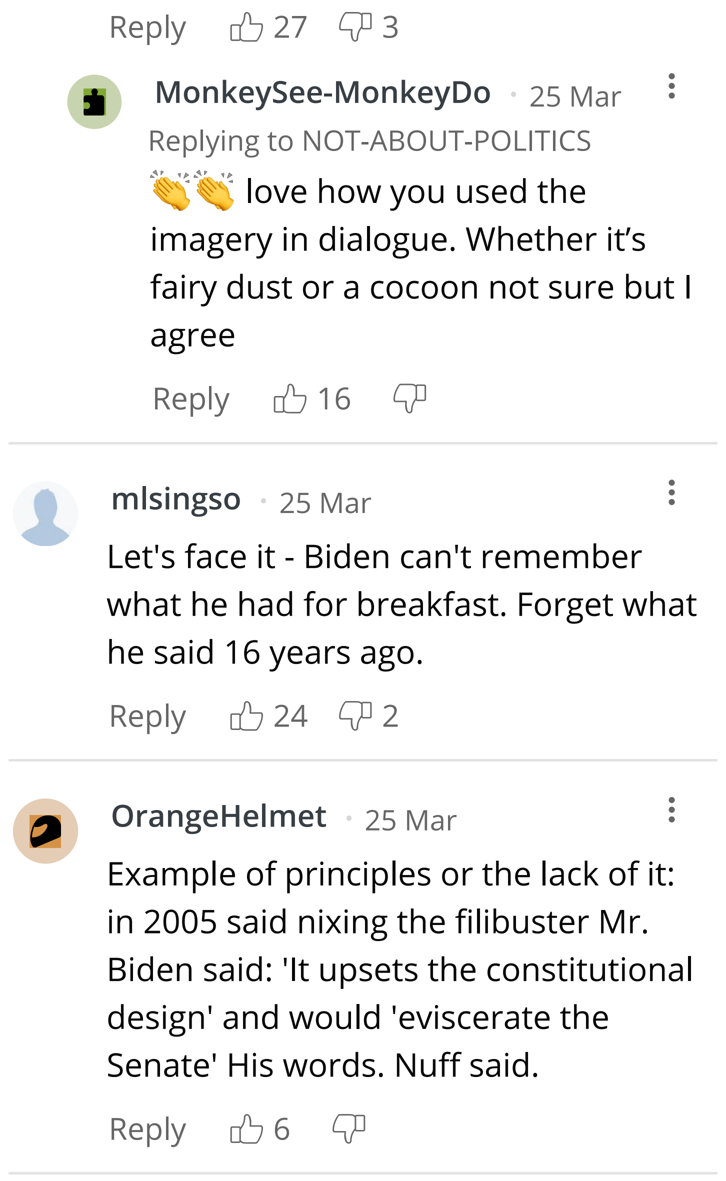
NOT-ABOUT-POLITICS • 25 Mar

Alas, Joe's own words spoken do not incriminate this shell of a politician Biden once was. You see, the oblivion surrounding this walking corpse of a POTUS — encapsulates him, providing him shelter from any and all accountability whatsoever...**See more**



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MonkeySee-MonkeyDo • 25 Mar

Replying to NOT-ABOUT-POLITICS

👏👏 love how you used the imagery in dialogue. Whether it’s fairy dust or a cocoon not sure but I agree

Reply 16

mlsingso • 25 Mar

Let's face it - Biden can't remember what he had for breakfast. Forget what he said 16 years ago.

Reply 24 2

OrangeHelmet • 25 Mar

Example of principles or the lack of it: in 2005 said nixing the filibuster Mr. Biden said: 'It upsets the constitutional design' and would 'eviscerate the Senate' His words. Nuff said.

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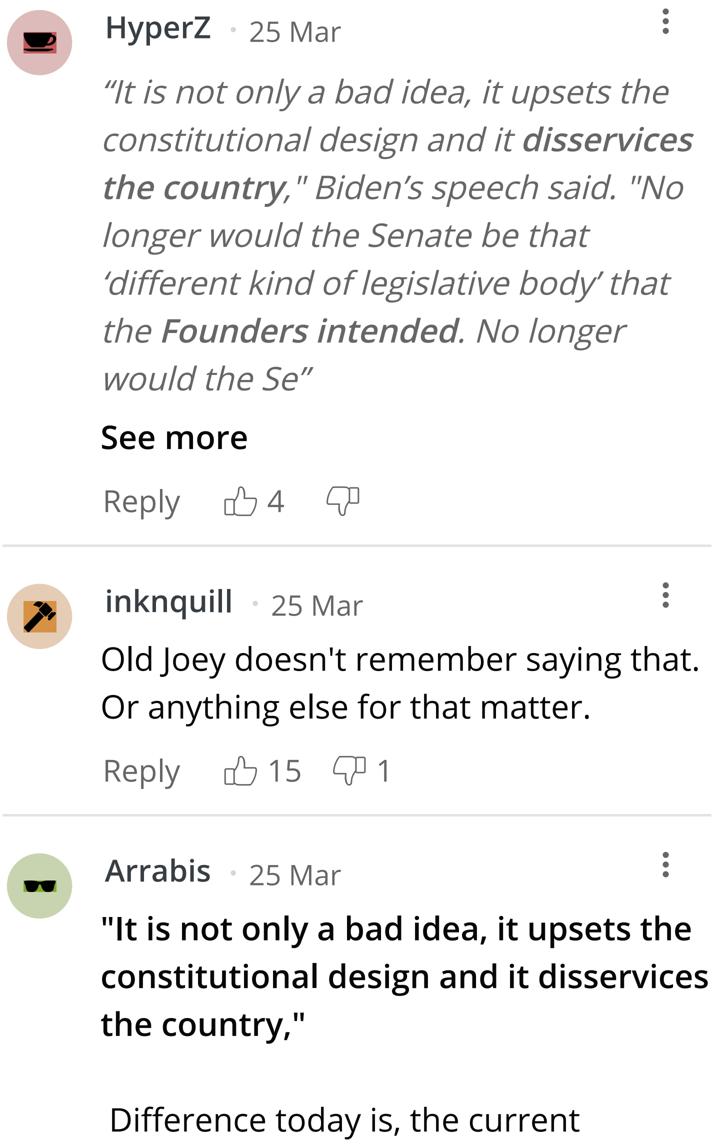

HyperZ · 25 Mar

“It is not only a bad idea, it upsets the constitutional design and it ***disservices the country****," Biden’s speech said. "No longer would the Senate be that ‘different kind of legislative body’ that the* ***Founders intended****. No longer would the Se”*

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inknquill · 25 Mar

Old Joey doesn't remember saying that. Or anything else for that matter.

Arrabis · 25 Mar

"It is not only a bad idea, it upsets the constitutional design and it disservices the country,"

Difference today is, the current

Socialist Democrat Officials don't want to follow the Constitution. the filibuster could be used against th...**See more** *(Edited)*

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